



Next Generation Internet Application Development Grants Call for Proposals

CommerceNet's Next Generation Internet (NGI) Applications Program invites proposals for NGI Application Development Grants from qualified California companies.

Electronic commerce applications are responsible for much of the ongoing development and growth of the Internet and the digital economy. As the technology behind the Next Generation Internet matures, we need to understand the impact of this new technology infrastructure on business applications and business models. For example, not only will new applications be developed using the NGI, but also a new class of business infrastructure services will be required to support those applications.

Our goal is to encourage the development of applications that use this new networking infrastructure in innovative ways for the economic and social improvement of individuals, companies, industries, regions, and communities. For the purposes of this program, the Next Generation Internet is not just about increasing the speed of the Internet. Issues such as security, privacy, reliability and ubiquitous access need to be addressed as well or the NGI will not advance to the next level.

CommerceNet is working with the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC) and private industry to establish two NGI Application Centers, with lead funding from the California Trade and Commerce Agency Division of Science, Technology, and Innovation. These Application Centers will house the development, testing, incubation and demonstration of new business and user-focused applications designed specifically to take advantage of the features and performance of the Next Generation Internet. Central to these Application Centers is the awarding of NGI Application Development Grants to qualified California companies.

Application/technical Focus

The Grant Program will focus on specific application/technical areas that will best utilize the capabilities and advantages of the NGI. NGI applications will be funded that require one or more of the following fundamental areas:

- ❖ High bandwidth infrastructure to enable the transmission of large data objects between a client and a server
- ❖ Deep interactivity and complexity between connected systems or servers
- ❖ Large numbers of interactive locations communicating with one another in almost real time
- ❖ Advanced security for sensitive eBusiness transactions or communications
- ❖ High reliability needed to instill confidence in using this infrastructure to run business critical applications
- ❖ The requirement to control the quality of service of end to end connections coupled with the ability to distinguish between different types of data (e.g. audio, video, text, etc.)

Proposal Guidelines:

Please provide a written proposal that should not exceed 15 pages (including tables, graphs, charts, appendix, budget plan, etc.). The proposal should cover:

- ❖ NGI Application Overview
- ❖ Impact
 - Please describe the potential impact of your NGI application on a specific industry and/or on the California economy.
- ❖ Describe how the project or application relates to the NGI
 - How does the project or application further the use of the NGI for business purposes?
 - How does the application take advantage of the features and performance of the Next Generation Internet (e.g. quality of service, reliability, etc.)
- ❖ Are you proposing your application project to be built on technology that is already created?
 - Development status of the technology
- ❖ Schedule
 - Projected Start Date
 - Estimated time of completion (preferably under 1 year)
 - Milestones and Deliverables
- ❖ Funding request
 - Estimated grant amount (target \$100,000-\$500,000)
 - Other funding sources Please detail any other funding sources you have secured (e.g. industry match, SBIR, etc.)
 - Budget plan for spending the grant money
- ❖ Contact Info

A committee comprised of key researchers, academics, and industry leaders will evaluate the proposals. Firms will receive grants based on the evaluation of the above criteria. Special emphasis will be based on innovation, potential impact on the state of CA, and the ability to show federal and/or industry match.

Funding Schedule:

<u>Submission Date</u>	<u>Decision Date</u>
12/15/00	1/15/01
2/15/01	3/15/01
4/15/01	5/15/01
6/15/01	7/15/01

Submission Procedures:

Please mail 4 copies of the proposal to the following address:

CommerceNet NGI Applications Program
C/O CommerceNet Consortium, Inc.
10050 N. Wolfe Road, SW2-255
Cupertino, CA 95014

In addition, an electronic copy, including an abstract of the proposal should be submitted. This can either be on an accompanying PC format floppy disk, or by email to ngi@commerce.net. The file should be in MS Word 97 (or earlier), Rich Text (.rtf) format, or Adobe Acrobat.

For further inquiries, please send email to ngi@commerce.net.

Potential Application Areas

- Collaborative design and product development – High speed connectivity and new classes of design systems could support a significant increase in collaborative development efforts that allow customers and vendors to interactively design and develop new products. This could significantly reduce product development time and efforts.
- Distributive work force support – New technologies will help to support the trend toward geographically distributed workforce by creating more effective group discussions, video conferencing, remote meeting management, etc. This could dramatically improve the effectiveness of all aspects of a distributed work force.
- Customer support with interactive video and intelligent agents – High quality interactive video and audio capability will help enable companies to develop new forms of personalized customer support services. Enhanced support services will increase customer usage and satisfaction with on-line shopping and business.
- Interactive selling and demonstrations – Current web-based selling is still far short of the ability to present products in a physical show room or even via dedicated PC multimedia. With interactive video, 3D modeling and user-controlled animation, sales presentations and demonstrations will take on an increasingly effective and life-like quality.
- Community interaction and real time relationship support – As technology allows companies to more quickly adapt and link together, new community models of organization are emerging. These communities of commerce will be able to utilize new NGI applications to provide more complex modeling and management of Internet-based communities.
- Real-time supply chain integration – NGI enabled Internet supported supply-chains will be able to support much more complex relationships and faster transaction speeds to meet emerging business requirements for greater flexibility and agility.
- Customer training – Customer controlled interactive and real-time video as well as animation over the Internet can dramatically lower support costs at the same time as improving customer learning and overall satisfaction.
- Manufacturing engineering – Virtual reality modeling and simulation can dramatically reduce the time required for new product development. Real-time system linkage and control can increase effective remote management of manufacturing processes. New forms of cooperative computing that link many systems together in high-speed distributed computing environments will be able to address many new business and engineering challenges that are currently impractical.
- Media and information services – New video, audio and presentation approaches enabled by dramatic increases in bandwidth will dramatically change the nature of the media and news business. New media business services will provide greater value to users and business partners.
- Training and technical support – New technologies are being introduced more quickly than many of the smaller, non-technical businesses can keep up with the increased demands of employee training and support. Innovative ways to improve the training and support are needed.

About CommerceNet

CommerceNet is a global, non-profit organization that works in collaboration with industry executives, researchers and scholars, entrepreneurs and investors to promote e-commerce around the world. Information can be found at <http://www.commerce.net>.